



Victory and Defeat

SERVICE

We serve God wherever we go.

Power Texts

"Do what the Lord has commanded" (Joshua 8:8, NIV).

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5, NIV).

Key Text and References

Joshua 6; 7; 8; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 487-504; student story on page 44 of this guide.

Objectives

The students will:

Know success from following God's plan.

Feel a need for seeking God's guidance.

Respond by following God's plan for serving others.

Power Point



Our service will be a success when we follow God's plan.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jericho is the first Canaanite fortified city to be conquered by the Israelites. God has a simple yet detailed plan to capture the city. The city is to be taken without a battle. Obedience to God's direction leads to the complete destruction of Jericho.

The next city to be conquered is the city of Ai. The Israelites fail to capture the city of Ai for two reasons: (1) Israel had

sinned when Achan stole some of the spoils of Jericho; (2) they are overconfident by following their own plans without God's guidance.

This is a lesson about service.

God's plans for serving others are the best. We need to daily seek His will for our lives. Success always comes when we follow God's guidance.

FOUR

Program Notes

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door Hear pleased/troubled	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. <i>Puzzling Directions</i> B. <i>Follow the Leader</i> C. <i>Service Muscles</i>	Puzzles Heavy objects
* Prayer and Praise*	15-20	See page 40. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Copy of Joshua 6; 7; 8
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, board and marker
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	Scenarios	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	Battle Trumpets	Paper, pens

Teacher Enrichment

"The utter destruction of the people of Jericho was but a fulfillment of the commands previously given through Moses concerning the inhabitants of Canaan: 'Thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them' (Deut. 7:2). . . . To many these commands seem to be contrary to the spirit of love and mercy enjoined in other portions of the Bible, but they were in truth the dictates of infinite wisdom and goodness. God was about to estab-

lish Israel in Canaan, to develop among them a nation and government that should be a manifestation of His kingdom upon the earth. They were not only to be inheritors of the true religion, but to disseminate its principles throughout the world." (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 492).

What plan might God have for my service that I don't understand right now? How do I show I'm willing to completely trust His leading in my life? Whom is He calling me to serve?

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their table/small group leader. Have leader ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Then debrief student(s) on their Bible study activities last week. Say: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** (The leader should know what the students' activities were for the past week so he/she can direct discussion.) Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- puzzles

A. Puzzling Directions

Beforehand, obtain two different puzzles that can be worked by a group in about 10 minutes. Divide the students into two groups. Give one group the box top showing the completed puzzle. Do not let the other group see what their puzzle will look like. Ask them to complete the puzzles in the next 10 minutes.

Stop them when the time is up.

Debriefing

Say: **Which group has finished their puzzle or is almost done? Was it easier or harder for the group without the picture to complete the puzzle? Why is that so?** (Having the picture to guide them helped.)

Say: **Having a plan to follow helps, especially when it's God's plan. Let's read our power texts from the middle of Joshua 8:8 and from Proverbs 3:5.** Allow time for students to find both verses and read them aloud with you.



Our service will be a success when we follow God's plan.

B. Follow the Leader

Have one student volunteer to be the "leader" while the others follow them around the room, doing exactly what the leader is doing (walk around chairs, jump up and down, wave arms, touch the wall, etc.). Let the leader continue for a few minutes and then choose another leader.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you like about following your leader? What didn't you like? Where were your leaders taking you? Did you feel as if they had a plan? How is this like following God as our leader?**

Say: **Let's read our power texts for today, the middle part of Joshua 8:8 and Proverbs 3:5.** Allow time for students to find the two verses and read them aloud with you. **These verses lead us to realize that**



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C. Service Muscles

You Need:

- heavy objects

Divide students into groups. Tell them that you are going to conduct a contest to see who has the best "service muscles." Ask each group to first pick the person in their group whom they want to send up to compete for the "best arm muscles."

Ask the candidate from each group to try to move a heavy object (such as a piano or heavy desk) by pushing against it with their arms. Note who seems to have the most impact on the object.

Then ask each group to choose the person with the strongest leg muscles. Have another demonstration or ask the students to vote based on what they know of the candidates' running ability.

Last of all, ask each group to choose the person with the best throat (or voice) muscles. They may immediately identify the person in their group who they think has the loudest voice, or they may have questions about this. If you have a soundproof place to do so, you might let each group send up a candidate and have a "loud voice" contest. Otherwise, just discuss which of the candidates they think would win.

Say: **You never know what God may call you to do for Him. Perhaps He will need your voice. In our lesson today we learn about an army that used strong voices instead of strong arms, legs, or backs to overcome a wicked city. What would have been your plan to conquer an enemy city?**

Say: **Let's read our power texts together (Joshua 8:8, middle part, and Proverbs 3:5). As our power point reminds us:**



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Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Mighty Warrior" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 76)

"Shepherd of My Soul" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 99)

"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 100)

"I Will Call Upon the Lord" (*Praise Time*, No. 32)

Prayer

Continue with the paper "keys" introduced three weeks ago. Say:

You Need:

- paper keys (p. 137)
- pens

This week we are learning about the Israelites conquering the Promised Land. The key you have been given represents "unlocking and opening up" a new land for them. Please write on your key one area in your life that you want God to take control of, or a way that you would like Him to give you guidance for serving others. After prayer we will add your key to our ribbon key ring and hang it up.

Say: **Dear God: Thank You for each student here and for their seeking after Your guidance for their lives. Please make clear to them Your plan for their service to others. Amen.**

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* or another mission report available to you.

You Need:

- milk OR honey container

Offering

Continue to use the milk or honey containers to collect the offering.

Say: **One way we can serve God is by giving our offerings.**

We're collecting the offering in this container because it represents Canaan, the "land of milk and honey," which the Israelites entered.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **What is something very important that you have had to do lately? What important projects are you going to have to do in the future? When have you asked God how He wants you to approach your projects?**

Say: **Our story today is about the Israelites after they had crossed the Jordan River and were facing the land they were to make their home. Remember, 40 years before, their parents and grandparents had been afraid to go in and take the land. Now, how do you think this generation was going to approach the problem?**

Experiencing the Story**You Need:**

- copy of Joshua 6; 7; 8

Copy Joshua 6; 7; 8 from a Bible and then cut it apart in sections. Section one: Joshua 6:1-11; section two: Joshua 6:12-20; section three: Joshua 6:20-27; section four: Joshua 7:1-9; section five: Joshua 7:10-18; section six: Joshua 7:19-26; section seven: Joshua 8:1-8; section eight: Joshua 8:9-29; section nine: Joshua 8:30-35.

Give out all nine sections to individuals or groups (depending on the size of your Sabbath School). Ask each group to read their passage and discuss it together.

Ask: **Which group believe they have the first part of today's story?** Don't allow much time before you identify who has the first part of the story. Ask the group with section one to tell the rest of the class in their own words what their passage says. Then ask which group believe they have the next part of the story. Again, help the group with section

two to identify themselves rather quickly and relate to the rest what their passage is about. Continue section by section until you have completed the story.

Debriefing

Ask: **What made the difference in the way things turned out between the overthrow of Jericho versus the attack on Ai?** (God gave the Israelites instructions on how to attack Jericho, but Joshua went ahead with his own plans to attack Ai.) **Why were the Israelites successful in capturing Ai the second time?** (They followed God's plan.)

Ask: **How were the Israelites serving God by destroying the Canaanites?** (The Canaanites had been given ample opportunity to follow God but chose not to. It was necessary to rid the area of heathen influence before the Israelites could begin to bring God to the nations around them [see Teacher Enrichment].)

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Rahab and her family were the only ones saved from Jericho. Why was that?** (She had faith in God and was loyal to God's people.) **Let's find Matthew 1:5 to discover whose family tree she is in.** (Jesus'.) **Let's continue reading from Matthew 1:5-16 and take turns coming up to the board to write each name mentioned to make the family tree from Rahab to Jesus.**

Let's remember that



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Let's find Hebrews 11:30, 31 and

You Need:

- Bibles
- marker board
- marker

read it together. How was Rahab following God's plan? And how did her service to God affect generations after her? (She not only

had a part in bringing the Israelites to the Promised Land, she also had a part in the human family of the Saviour of the world.)

3 Applying the Lesson

Scenarios

Read the following scenarios to your students. At the end of each, ask your students to discuss whether or not the person is following God's plan for serving others, and why they have come to the conclusion they have.

1. Thomas has just been baptized and wants to tell others about Jesus. He attends a public school and boldly tells anyone who will listen that they are sinners and are going to hell. He wants to tell them about Jesus' love, but most don't listen to him after he says that.

2. Bethany is hoping to be a junior volunteer at her local hospital this summer. She has gone through the orientation and now is being asked what area she would like to serve in. She'd love to help delivering flowers, but there seems to be a pressing need passing out food trays and assisting patients with eating. Before she gives her answer she asks God to guide her to where she could be of the most help.

3. Jason knows a boy his age down the street who sometimes is physically and verbally aggressive. He learns that this boy has a health condition that makes him this way. All the other kids on his block avoid him. Jason is praying about

how he can safely befriend this boy so he can share Jesus with him.

4. Anastasia is excited about going on a family mission trip. They have prayed about following God's plan for their family in this service activity. But wouldn't you know it, her brother gets very sick the day before they are to leave. They have to cancel their plans. Anastasia is very disappointed and wonders why God would allow this to happen. Her brother recovers a few days later. That Sabbath in church her dad sees some visitors he recognizes. It's a former friend he's lost track of. His friend tells him he's in town for the weekend only. He hasn't gone to church in years but this morning felt very impressed to find an Adventist church. Anastasia's dad brings his friend and his wife home for lunch, and they spend the afternoon talking. A few weeks later when his friend writes a thank-you note, he says that he's decided to go back to church. Anastasia can't help thinking of this chance meeting and her family's canceled mission trip.



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4

Sharing the Lesson

Battle Trumpets**You Need:**

- paper
- pens

Say: **Please draw a large trumpet on your paper. What interesting battle plan is the Lord calling you to carry out in service to Him?** (i.e., being friendly to the meanest kid in your school, asking forgiveness from a brother or sister you've not been kind to, giving your favorite shirt away to someone who needs it. Help them think of potential service to people outside their regular circle.) **Think about it and then write it down on your trumpet.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Please share with us what you wrote on your trumpet.** Encourage sharing. **How might God's plan be different from what you think yours would be?** (Encourage discussion of what their plan would be and how God's might be different.)

What will it take to create in you a willingness to ask God to show you His plan for service this week?

Encourage a thoughtful commitment. Ask everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes, and ask those who are willing to ask God to guide them in His plan for their service this week to kneel down. Proceed with closing prayer.

Closing

Ask God to be with the students this week as they serve Him. Pray specifically that He will guide them as they do the thing they wrote on their trumpets. Thank Him for His promise of guidance in every aspect of our lives.

After prayer, encourage the students to take their trumpets home to remind them of their service commitment. Encourage them to share with an adult their plan and their prayer for guidance.

STUDENT LESSON

Victory and Defeat

Key Text

Joshua 6; 7; 8

Power Texts

"Do what the Lord has commanded" (Joshua 8:8, NIV).

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5, NIV).

Power Point

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As you did last week, imagine that you are waiting for your father to return from helping friends move to another region. Now you hear that he must also help them attack and conquer some cities. Continue to read the messages between a young Hebrew, Baram, and his father, who is helping the rest of the Israelites enter Canaan.

Baram!

You will never guess how Adonai conquered Jericho for us! For six days, we marched silently around the city, but on the seventh day Adonai delivered Jericho into our hands! Again, we arose early and began marching around the city, but instead of circling it only once, we marched around it seven times. On the seventh time around the city, the priests blasted their trumpets and all of the soldiers began to shout. You can't imagine what a deafening sound it was as thousands of men shouted and the trumpets blasted! Then we all gave one very loud shout, and the walls collapsed!

We all rushed over the broken rock and mortar and entered the city from every side. Everything was destroyed, every living thing except the woman Rahab and her family. She had protected two Hebrew spies when they were in danger of being captured in Jericho. We were instructed to collect all of the precious metals such as silver, gold, bronze, and iron and set them aside for the treasury of Adonai. Everything else was to be burned. We were not to take anything for ourselves.

Baram, I tell you this so you will know of Adonai's awesome victory over Jericho.

—Abba

Shalom Abba,

I love your stories from the Promised Land. I'm sure that every battle will be as easy as conquering Jericho. We don't even have to fight! Adonai fights for us! The God of Israel rules. I can't wait for

your next letter. Please write soon.

—Baram

Shalom Baram,

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that Ai has been destroyed, every last person. Our people plundered the city's riches and took all the livestock too.

The bad news is that 36 of our men died in battle and one in camp. Let me explain. Without seeking Adonai's advice on this matter, Joshua sent about 3,000 soldiers to take Ai. Our army went up against the city, but the men of Ai came out ready for battle and quickly overpowered our army. Thirty-six of our men were killed, and the rest turned and fled.

The survivors came back to camp and the whole camp was confused, discouraged, and distressed. We did not understand how we could be beaten especially after our victory at Jericho. Joshua and the elders of the camp went before the ark and stayed there the whole day. Finally, Adonai revealed the cause of our defeat: When Israel entered Jericho after the walls fell down, someone took some of the things that were to be set aside for Adonai.

Joshua told us to consecrate ourselves; the next day Adonai singled out the one who had defiled the camp by taking things from Jericho. It was Achan. He took money, gold, and a beautiful robe. Before the day was done, Achan and everything that belonged to him were destroyed.

Soon after that, Adonai instructed

Joshua to take the whole army and attack Ai. Thirty-thousand men went out at night to wait behind the city. The next day another 5,000 men were sent to the west of the city. The rest of us set up camp in front of Ai. The next morning all the soldiers of Ai came out to attack us, and we fled. We drew them away from the city, and Joshua gave the signal for the men lying in ambush to attack and burn Ai. When we saw smoke rising in the distance we turned on our enemies, and the ambush attacked them, too. Adonai was with us, and that day He delivered Ai into our hands.

Baram, this has been a bitter lesson for us, suffering defeat to Ai, but we must not be discouraged. We must always remember to seek Adonai for His will, and we must be careful to obey His commands.

Take care, my son. I will come home and see you as soon as I can.

—Abba

Sabbath

- Do this week's activity on page 25.

Sunday

- Read "Victory and Defeat."
- Share your "battle trumpet" you made in Sabbath School with someone. If you were not present, think about what God might want you to do to serve Him this week and share your thoughts with someone.
- Begin to learn the power text.
- Pray that God will direct your service to Him.

Monday

- Read Joshua 6.
- Draw a diagram of the order of the Israelites' positions as they walked around Jericho. What was God's strategy for the battle of Jericho?
- What walled-in areas of your life are you still hiding behind? How secure do you feel behind those walls? How could God give you victory over those walls if you followed His plan?
- Pray that you will faithfully follow God's instructions to you.

Tuesday

- Read Joshua 7.
- What two sins had the Israelites committed to cause them to lose their fight against Ai?
- What emotions does God express in His conversation with Joshua?
- In your Bible study journal, write down in story

form a time when you sinned and tried to hide it. What were the consequences?

- Pray that you will be willing to seek God's counsel before you make decisions.

Wednesday

- Read Joshua 8:1-29.
- Continue to learn the power text.
- What was similar and what was different about the monument built at Gilgal after the Jordan River crossing and the rock piles of Joshua 7:26 and 8:29?
- Praise God for the spiritual victories He gives you.

Thursday

- Read Joshua 8:30-35.
- Think about how the Israelites passed on stories and God's laws to their children. What is similar to the way you learn about God? What is different?
- Ask a grown-up about a specific time when they sought God's guidance and how it turned out.
- Thank God for giving you the Bible to seek His counsel from.

Friday

- Recite the power text by memory.
- With your family discuss what has been most like a Jericho experience in your lives, and what has been most like an Ai experience.
- With younger brothers or sisters, act out the story of the Battle of Jericho.
- Use your voice muscles to worship God as the Israelites did. Sing some praise songs.
- Pray that you will find success in serving God.